

REMARKS

The above amendment presents claims based on claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 of the parent application. However, the present claims are in "consisting essentially of" format.

The significance of this feature will become apparent from the remarks below.

In the parent application, claims 1, 2 and 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Takemura et al. '739 in view of Yoshimoto (EP'032) and Sewa et al. '504.

The deficiencies of this combination of references were discussed at length in the Response filed in the parent application on December 19, 2003 and a copy of this Response is enclosed.

The present claims are even further unobvious from the combined reference teachings, particularly with respect to the Takemura reference.

Even though component (A) may be equivalent to the dissolution inhibitor (V) of Takemura when the subscript z is zero, the composition of Takemura essentially contains the component (B), which is a polyhydroxystyrene with partial substitution of acid unstable groups for the hydroxyl groups resulting in a binary copolymer. Such essential component (B) in Takemura is not included in the components claimed in amended claim 5 and is excluded by the present "consists essentially of" format.

With regard to the rejection in the parent application of claims 1, 2 and 5-7 over Barclay (U.S. 5,861,231) in view of Yoshimoto (EP '032) and Sewa (U.S. 6,187,501), the rejection contends that the photoresist composition disclosed in Barclay meets the definition of the presently claimed composition.

In reply, the ternary copolymer of Barclay represented by the formula UU on col. 6 can be equivalent to the component (A) in claim 5. As for the onium salt compound as a PAG (B) in claim 5, the rejection in the parent alleges on page 6, line 3 et seq. that Barclay teaches in col. 8, lines 1-2, the claimed onium salt compound. The indicated passage, however, fails to address an onium salt compound having a fluoroalkylsulfonate as the anionic constituent claimed in claim 5.


Furthermore, Barclay is silent on the advantages obtained with such a fluoroalkyl-containing onium salt compound as the component (B).

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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